

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM COMMITTEE

June 17, 1998
MAG Office Building, Ocotillo Conference Room
302 North First Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Jim Book, Glendale, Acting Chairman
Ty Hofflander, Chandler
Gary Thomas, Gilbert
Marty Scott for Tom Buick, Maricopa County
Alan Sanderson, Mesa
Mike Frisbie for Jim Matteson, Phoenix
Scott Miller, RPTA
Paul Basha for Steve Hogan, Scottsdale,

*Mike Branham, Surprise
Ed VanDerGinst, Tempe
Jim Decker for Tim Wolfe, ADOT
Tom Fowler for Alan Hansen, FHWA
*Cydney DeModica, AAA
*Jonathan Upchurch, ASU
*Richard Traill, Phoenix Aviation

*Members neither present nor represented by Proxy

OTHERS PRESENT

Mike Nevarez, Phoenix Public Transit
Brian Latte, Chandler

Paul Ward, MAG
Anne MacCracken, MAG

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 p.m. by Acting Chairman Jim Book

2. Approval of the April 22, 1998 Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the April 22, 1998 meeting were unanimously approved.

3. AzTech Update

Jim Book showed a copy of the ITS Arizona Newsletter and asked if any member was not receiving a copy to please inform MAG staff. Alan Sanderson reported that the City of Mesa passed the ½ cent sales tax. He continued to say that this translates to potentially one million dollars for ITS projects. In addition, Mr. Sanderson commented that the transit portion is for bus pullouts and shelters, and after the third year the funds will go for extending service hours and adding one route.

Ed VanDerGinst reported that the Tempe will have the plans and specs finalized for the Special Event Control System by the end of August. Paul Ward asked who is Tempe's ADOT

representative in the Local Government Section. Mr. VanDerGinst answered that Tempe has been working with Dan Powell. Mr. Ward stressed the need to work with the Local Government Section at ADOT in order to obligate the project this fiscal year. Ty Hofflander introduced Chandler's new Traffic Engineer, Brian Latte who will eventually represent Chandler at the ITS Committee meetings. Paul Basha reported that Scottsdale is experiencing many problems with the microwave communication on their traffic cameras. Gary Thomas reported that Gilbert is requesting bids for their traffic management system that is being accelerated from the year 2002. Tom Fowler stated that FHWA is sponsoring a two day class on ITS architecture on September First and Second and will be faxing invitations out soon. Mr. Ward reported that MAG is close to making a decision regarding an offer of employment to a prospective ITS planner.

4. Update on the CMS Ranking Sub-Committee Meeting

Paul Ward said that a sub-committee meeting was held in place of May's regular ITS Committee meeting and discussed factors that could be incorporated into a future ITS rating system. Mr. Ward distributed a handout that detailed a draft of potential factors and their associated points for the Committee's consideration. Mr. Ward stressed that the draft rating system was for comment and he expected that several changes may be necessary. He suggested that at a forthcoming sub-committee meeting, he would complete a trial run with a dozen sample projects and see how each project scores. The factors and points could then be modified depending on results from the trial run and from input from the sub-committee.

In describing the proposed rating system, Mr. Ward indicated that the ITS Strategic plan is one of the biggest components of the rating system, utilizing up to 50 percent of the total amount. He pointed out that the three classes of priority routes had not been decided and, indeed, may not even be preferred. Mr. Ward suggested that, under this scenario, points could be deducted if a route is already partially improved. Scott Miller asked if a corridor is improved for traffic but not transit, will points still be deducted for a transit project. Mr. Ward reported that the rating system does not yet contain a transit component, but he would work with the sub-committee to ensure that transit factors are incorporated. Mr. Ward continued to say that the Strategic Plan component could also receive bonus points for completing a segment of a corridor that would help to lengthen or complete that corridor.

Mr. Ward explained the three remaining components of the rating system, regarding congestion factors, local matching funds and a subjective component. Mr. Ward suggested a sliding scale between the lowest and highest ADT for bonus points for congestion with possible input from the ongoing MAG Congestion Study. Regarding matching funds, a project would receive bonus points if a jurisdiction contributes a larger percentage than the federally mandated minimum and the last factor allows for subjective evaluation, probably to be decided by the full ITS Committee. Mr. Ward asked the Committee whether the transit component should be integrated or drawn out separately. The Chairman suggested that transit be given a priority but treated separately. Mr. Ward suggested that transit projects could be rated through a separate transit based ITS rating system and then prioritized based on funding levels available for ITS projects in general. The Chairman supported the jurisdiction match and subjective component. Jim Decker urged that transit should be given a priority and that cities should be encouraged to be committed to maintenance of these projects. Alan

Sanderson said that it would be difficult to establish the criteria for sufficient maintenance. Mr. VanDerGinst suggested that jurisdictions would request that future maintenance could be used as the local match. Mr. Hofflander said he would like to see the effectiveness of the project and its potential impact as factors. Mike Frisbie asked if old projects could be used to test the ranking of the proposed rating system then compare the scores. Mr. Ward agreed to include the existing programmed projects with the test projects that he would create in order to test run the proposed rating system.

Mr. Ward summarized by explaining that the presented rating system is very preliminary and that, when the rating system is finally approved, any decisions regarding the allocation of bonus points for individual projects should be agreed by an ITS sub-committee prior to results being presented. He reiterated that a rating system subcommittee would be scheduled within the next two weeks and all members of the ITS Committee would be notified and would be welcome to attend.

5. Reauthorization of ISTEA

Mr. Ward reported that the reauthorization of ISTEA, now known as the Transportation Equity Act for the Twenty First Century (TEA-21), has been signed by the President. He continued to say that because of some errors in the original act, a technical corrections bill called the TEA-21 Restoration Act was in progress. Mr. Ward stated that approximately fifty percent of the ITS funding included in the Act has been earmarked and the remainder would be for research, administration with only a relatively small amount of discretionary funding available. Mr. Ward said that this means that most of the ITS funds will go to states other than Arizona. However, Mr. Ward reported that CMAQ funds to Arizona have been doubled. He continued to say that even though these funds may not be exclusively for MAG, our region will still experience an increase in CMAQ funds. Mr. Ward said that MAG will also receive an increase in STP funds. He reported that minimum allocation is now minimum guarantee and that the State will have greater discretion in allocating these funds. Mr. Ward reported on House Bill 2565 which says that when the State's flex funds increase over 42 million, the first 8 million will go to transit which would be distributed on a population basis.

5. FY 1998 Closeout

Mr. Ward referred to Attachment One. He said until MAG knows how the TEA-21 funds will be distributed on the MPO/COG level, the uncommitted funds are still unknown. Mr. Ward reported that Tempe, Gilbert and Chandler are accelerating the design and or construction on some of their projects.

6. Recommendations for Low Cost Projects on the State Highway System

Mr. Ward reported that the State has identified a series of low cost projects, of which approximately 60% have already been addressed. Jurisdictions have been requested to submit projects that cost less than one million dollars and involve the State Highway System.

7. Status Report by Committee Members of ITS Activities

Mike Frisbie reported that Phoenix is 50% done and that they expect their software to be installed next week. Jim Decker, speaking for Dan Powell, said that they will be giving a presentation to the Move-It Committee on July 31st. Mr. Decker briefly outlined their presentation and asked for feed back from the Committee members. Mr. Ward suggested that AzTech presenters might wish to give their presentation to the ITS Committee in mid July as a trial run.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.